




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2023

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (5.07 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2023. I acknowledge and thank the Treasurer and Premier for delivering a solid budget that speaks directly to all Queenslanders no matter where they live. Cost-of-living pressures have been a major issue in recent times. The Palaszczuk government acknowledges the extreme pressures that cost of living has on families and households in Queensland by delivering a budget that aligns critical investments directly to benefit vulnerable families and households. I quote the Treasurer where he says, 'In this budget, our government will deliver greater and more widespread cost-of-living relief than any other government in Australia, state or federal', and that is exactly what Queenslanders can expect from this budget.

In this budget the Palaszczuk government will deliver more hospitals, more houses and more roads. We are doing everything to protect our services by delivering vital infrastructure because we know our communities deserve quality services. We are investing in local initiatives to support jobs and the local economy and we are doing absolutely everything to protect our great lifestyle. This budget will make a lot of difference to families and households in Queensland and it will certainly make a lot of difference to communities in my electorate of Cook, one of the most vast and diverse electorates in this state.

Health continues to be the No. 1 priority of the Palaszczuk government. A \$38 million overall health investment for Cook means that families will have access to quality health services closer to home. Mossman Hospital will receive \$250,000 out of a \$5.2 million total spend for roof cladding replacement and remediation works. This is in addition to the millions already spent on the redevelopment at the Mossman Hospital. In Cape York we will replace ageing infrastructure, utilising standardised design to deliver a safe, compliant and contemporary environment at Pormpuraaw Primary Health Care Centre. In Bamaga our investment will rectify and replace the end-of-life, noncompliant hydraulic pipeline at the local hospital.

In the Torres Strait we continue to support the redevelopment of Thursday Island Hospital and the separate primary healthcare centre and also the delivery of a new CT scanner. Our investment will deliver to the Mer Island community a brand new primary healthcare centre so that people living on Mer Island, in the eastern part of the Torres Strait, can continue to access health care closer to home. Since first elected, I have fought hard for vital funds for the Cow Bay Primary Health Centre to support the health needs of the Daintree community. I am excited that in this budget \$263,000 out of a total spend of \$14.9 million will be used to replace ageing infrastructure, utilising standardised design to deliver a safe, compliant and contemporary environment.

Our children deserve the opportunity to receive good quality education no matter where they live. This government continues to invest in infrastructure and to maintain and carry out minor works in schools across Cook to ensure safe and adequate learning environments to enhance our children's learning. In Cape York, our investment will support classroom refurbishment at the Hope Vale campus of the Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy, Kowanyama, Northern Peninsula Area State College

and Western Cape College in Weipa. At Western Cape College in Weipa we are also constructing a new building for additional learning spaces. Aurukun will receive funds to construct access ramps and pathways, while in Lockhart River we will enhance the administration block.

We will upgrade playground infrastructure in the Torres Strait at Tagai State College on Dauan Island and Kubin community on Moa Island. We are upgrading playground infrastructure as well as tuckshops on Masig, Warraber and Horn islands and at Aurukun in Cape York and Mount Molloy on the Atherton Tablelands. Clearly every child, no matter where they live, will benefit from this government's strong budget measures.

The budget also includes initiatives to support the local economy. Pajinka, on the most northern tip of Australia, is one of the many beautiful places I have visited in my electorate with a lot of tourism potential. I am excited that we will invest in Pajinka to support the clean-up of the former resort sight for the development of low-level tourism infrastructure. Ongoing investment in the Wangetti Trail will see the trail come to completion so that we can open our doors to more visitors to our region. Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council has worked extremely hard to create economic opportunities for the local community. I know that Cullen Point Campground is a popular visitor destination in Cape York; \$1 million out of a \$2.9 million total spend will go towards the upgrade and expansion of the Cullen Point Campground in Mapoon and the development of an historical interpretation walk of the mission village site in the Old Mapoon precinct.

Cook is home to many local artists and I am proud of the many talents in my electorate. I welcome the \$744,000 in the budget to support art centres throughout Cook to grow an ethical and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts industry.

The Palaszczuk government continues to work closely with local council and community organisations to deliver critical infrastructure to support our great lifestyle. Communities in the Torres Strait rely heavily on sea transport to access food supplies and services and to stay connected. Fuel infrastructure is an essential and critical service for many outer islands of the Torres Strait. I am pleased that the government continues to support the great lifestyle of people right across the state. Through this budget we will invest \$752,400 out of a \$1.1 million total spend for the Multi-Island Fuel Infrastructure Replacement Project. That is an important initiative that I am proud to deliver with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council.

Deputy Speaker, Mr Acting Speaker has reviewed and approved my budget speech for incorporation. As such, I ask that the remainder of my speech be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*.

The speech read as follows—

\$6 million out of a \$8.5 million total spend to upgrade the Horn Island passenger jetty and cargo wharf as well as \$672,757 out of a \$961,057 total spend to expand the Horn Island affordable housing project for Indigenous home-buyers.

\$669,956 out of a \$1.0 million total spend to provide building upgrades and an external face-lift, opening up the front of the Everlina Plaza building to customers in Hopevale.

\$370,000 out of a \$1.5 million total spend for the operation of the Kowanyama's Women's Meeting Place, and \$46,000 out of a \$184,000 total spend for the operation of the Kowanyama Men's Shed.

\$100,000 out of a \$1.4 million total spend to upgrade community infrastructure at the Coen Airport.

\$600,000 out of a \$1.5 million total spend to upgrade approximately 9km of Weipa's essential sewer network mains using an industry recognized process of rehabilitating and relining the existing pipes.

\$300,000 of a \$4.5 million total spend to commence the \$4.5 million construction of the Bamaga Fire and Emergency Services Complex.

\$140,000 for ongoing maintenance investment in training infrastructure at Thursday Island TAFE.

\$26,000 out of a \$40,000 total spend to develop a masterplan for the island's only sports centre that will identify a clear purpose and establish long-term vision.

\$150,000 to install field lighting at the Cassowary Park to give locals more flexibility to host night games.

\$296,000 out of a \$370,000 total spend to upgrade shade structures to improve safety and the efficient usage of lawn bowls greens.

Speaker, I am pleased that in this budget, every household in Queensland will receive \$550 electricity rebate. It does not stop there, eligible Queensland concession holders will also continue to access their \$372 standing concession and Queensland concession holders will also receive an additional electricity bill rebate of \$150. This is a good cost of living measure and I know this will go a long way to supporting households in Cook.

As a parent, I can remember enrolling my babies in Kindy for the first and the excitement on their little faces, about attending school and what a big deal that was. My kids are a lot older now but still I have fond memories of them attending kindy, making friends, being exposed to new things and learning new skills. I absolutely loved watching their little confidence grow and little

minds develop. However, for many families I've spoken to in recent times, Kindy has become optional and so many families, choose to keep their kids at home. This will all change in this budget because come January 2024, all 4 year old Queensland children will benefit from this governments \$645 million investment over four years to fund 15 hours each week of free kindergarten.

Speaker, this is a good strong budget that speaks to all Queenslanders. A budget to help families and households cope with extreme challenges of cost of living pressures. I commend the bill to the House.